



Embassy of the United States of America

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

WARDEN MESSAGE

January 9, 2009

The Embassy requests that wardens pass the following message in its entirety to members of the American Community:

The U.S. Embassy would like all American citizens to be aware of the growing violence between Israel and the Palestinian Hamas-ruled administration of the Gaza Strip. Beginning in late December, Hamas and Israel have launched attacks on each other's territories with tragic effects on the civilian populations. The situation continues to be unpredictable and volatile.

While we are unaware of any specific threats in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, a general desire for prudence led the U.S. Embassy in late-December to limit travel of their employees outside the city limits of Riyadh, Jeddah and Dhahran. The United Nations may be considering resolutions in the immediate future which may draw increased attention to the conflict and Gaza. The reactions of the international community may raise tensions higher. As such the Embassy continues to adhere to that policy. In addition, as tensions in the region increase over the fighting between Hamas and Israel, the possibility of random acts of violence against westerners becomes of greater concern. American citizens should exercise caution and take prudent security measures: keep a very low profile, maintain a high level of vigilance, avoid crowds and demonstrations, vary times and routes for all travel, and ensure that travel documents and visas are current and valid.

U.S. citizens living or traveling abroad are encouraged to register with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate through the State Department's travel registration web site at <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/> so that they can obtain updated information on travel and security. Americans without Internet access may register directly with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. By registering, American citizens make it easier for the Embassy or Consulate to contact them in case of emergency.

For the latest security information, Americans traveling abroad should regularly monitor the State Department's Internet web site at <http://travel.state.gov>, where the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Warnings, including the Travel Warning for Saudi Arabia, and Travel Alerts can be found. Up-to-date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free in the U.S. and Canada or, for callers outside the U.S. and Canada, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. Holidays).

American citizens are reminded to keep their registration up-to-date. See <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/> for registration information.

To hear recordings of the most recent security information, you may call the Embassy in Riyadh at +966-1-488-3800 and press 6 for regional or worldwide security information or press 7 for “Travel Warning for Saudi Arabia.”

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You can also review earlier Warden Messages at <http://riyadh.usembassy.gov/service/advisories-for-americans-in-ksa/warden-messages.html>.

General Inquiries: RiyadhACS@state.gov

Registration Inquiries: RegistrationRID@state.gov

ACS Website: <http://riyadh.usembassy.gov/service.html>